

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THREE RAILROAD TRAINS TO COLLECT TOYS FOR TOTS IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY DECEMBER 3, 4, and 10, 2016

On December 3, 4 and 10, 2016, three special trains will run Northern New Jersey and southern New York to collect donated toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation. Last year, more than 10,000 toys were collected on the train. All toys collected will be distributed to needy families in the area. Along the route, the trains will stop at 18 locations where members of the public can drop off toys, board the train to see Santa Claus, experience a variety of working railroad equipment, and meet members of the Marine Corps.

Four railroads are loaning engines, rolling stock, and use of their tracks to Operation Toy Train. They are the Morristown & Erie, New York, Susquehanna & Western, Norfolk Southern, and Middletown and New Jersey Railroad. In addition to the Marine Corps Reserve, volunteers from the Military Transport Association and the Volunteer Railroaders Association will help run the event. The manager of Operation Toy Train is John Sobotka.

Members of the public are encouraged to drop off new, unwrapped toys at various collection points along the route in the first two weeks of December. At each stop, one or more businesses or organizations has a large collection box. The web site lists all the toy drop-off locations. Go to **ToysForTotsNJ.com**

On Saturday, December 3, the train will stop in Rochelle Park, Totowa, Hawthorne, Wharton Dike, Wycoff, Oakland, Pompton Lakes, Butler, and Sparta. On Sunday, Dec. 4, the train will run from Warwick, NY to Walden NY. On Saturday, December 10, the train will stop in Flanders, Ledgewood, Kenil, Dover, and Rockaway. The schedule of stops is on the web site.

The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November, and December each year and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community where the campaign is conducted.